



THE AL



Counsellor

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1962 COULD BE ONE OF THE BEST EVER!

DEPARTMENT COMPLETES BUSY YEAR

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS REVIEWED

A move toward urban counties and a new Town and Rural Planning Act are forecast by officials of the Department of Municipal Affairs in their annual reviews. Also anticipated is the conversion of departmental accounting to the electronic computer system beginning in April with the completion date set for some three months later.

Most Branches looked back on a busy twelve months and see little indication of a slackening pace for 1962. The Departmental move in August to the Municipal Affairs Building provided much-needed space and means greater efficiency and better service to the people of the Province.

Highlights of 1961 as outlined by Deputy Minister A. W. Morrison and branch officials follow:

All indications point to 1962 being another busy but fruitful year, with only one major new development foreseen in the municipal field - the probability of legislation being brought before the next session of the Legislature for the institution of the county type of government in urban municipalities. In anticipation one town has already made its application for this form of government. However, any developments along this line will have to await legislative sanction, so that at the earliest the application of the county form of government to urban municipalities could not take effect until the beginning of the year 1963.



The year 1961 was an extremely busy one for the Department with the institution of the school Foundation Program for the financing of school costs and the passing of The Electric Power and Pipe Line Assessment Act, which had the effect of removing from the exempt class a type of property previously exempt from assessment and taxation in whole or in part. Comprehensive studies were carried out in connection with these and other matters for the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee.

On behalf of the Department I would like to express our thanks for the co-operation received from all municipalities during the past year and to extend best wishes to all for a successful and prosperous 1962.

A.W. Morrison, Deputy Minister

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MUNICIPAL INSPECTION BRANCH

1961 has been another very busy year for the Branch. As usual there were approximately 300 inspections of municipal offices made, with some special investigations thrown in for good measure. In addition there was the compilation of the annual report for the Department. Over 800 applications under the winter works incentive program for the 1960-1961 season were processed and to the end of December, 1961, over 600 applications have been received for the 1961-1962 season.

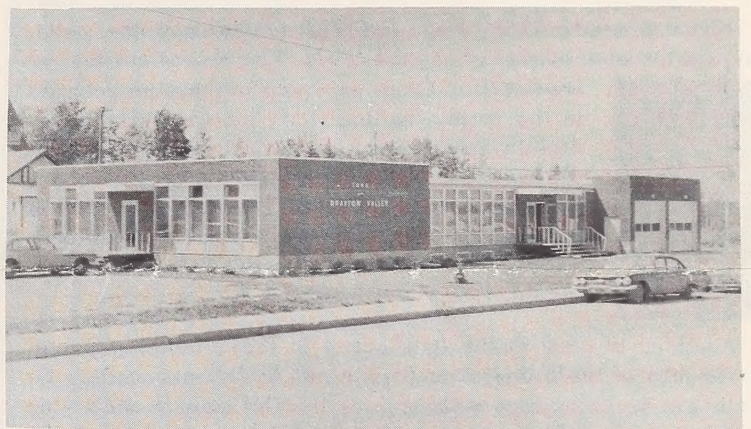
Regarding new formations and changes in status, the year began with the incorporation of a new town (Vauxhall) and four new villages (Hill Spring, Glenwood, Slave Lake (To Page 6)



TOWN OF THE MONTH



DRAYTON VALLEY



NEW TOWN OFFICE - Nearly every building in Drayton Valley is new, and this handsome structure is no exception. Less than ten years ago, not many people had heard of Drayton Valley, but oil changed everything ... overnight ... and now it's the centre of one of the largest fields in North America. (Pembina News Picture)

... HOW IT BEGAN

The Town of Drayton Valley derives its name from a village in Hampshire, England. Originally called Power House (after a proposed project involving a dam on the North Saskatchewan six miles south) the name was changed because there was already a post office by that name in British Columbia. Mrs. W. J. Drake, wife of the local storekeeper and first postmaster, suggested it be called after Drayton, her home village in England, and the name was accepted. The original townsite was situated one and one half miles down the valley, but it was moved to its present location on top of the hill as being a better site.

The first settlers of the district were lumbermen arriving in 1907 and 1908 who cut the great trees and floated the logs down river to sawmills in Edmonton. Next came the trappers. They found the district rich in game and used the river also to ship an abundance of furs on rafts to Edmonton. Trapping was important until 1920. (To Page 5)

TWO TOWNS ANNEXED

Annexation of certain lands, including the Town of Forest Lawn, to the City of Calgary was authorized by Order No. 25860 of the Public Utilities Board effective December 30, 1961. On the same date the annexation of certain territory, including the Town of Beverly, to Edmonton was authorized under Order No. 25861.

The two orders reduce the number of towns in Alberta at year's end to 87.

Under the terms of the annexation orders Calgary gained an estimated 13,000 people and about 75 square miles of territory while Edmonton's population was increased by 9,000 and its area by approximately 11 square miles.

THE SECOND PAGE . . .

RING OUT, WILD BELLS

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor
Ring in redress for all mankind.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.
Tennyson's "In Memoriam"

PREDICTION OR FACT?

We're rather pleased with our banner headline this month. It should get our seventh year of publication off to a good start. Mind you, it's not as definitive as we would like; but after considerable thought, we decided not to go any further. The new year could easily swing either way, but with most of us being optimists, the positive approach does seem more readable.

What happened in 1961? It was really not unlike many other years. There was the usual number of ups and downs. Our tax notices showed few surprises. Crops were poor in the south but good in the north. Housing starts increased slightly in Alberta, but cut back somewhat in eastern Canada, while the per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages increased all over. The cost of education rose considerably, but held its place ahead of cosmetics, tobacco and bubble gum only by a narrow margin.



Anything of great social significance in 1961? Nothing greater than the story of the fellow taking his gun into his fall-out shelter. Or the cartoon depicting Enos walking away from his capsule and saying to another chimp, "That puts us behind the Russians but ahead of the Americans".

Nothing more strange than Gandhi's heir in battle dress.

Well, our new calendars are on the wall and we shall mark off the days one at a time. God willing, we shall plant our seeds this springtime and hope for a bountiful harvest. We shall aim high and work hard and dare to be a Daniel ... as if we weren't scanning the northern skies for unidentified objects.

We're going to search for beauty and truth as usual. And we shall find it in such usual places as the fields and the mountains, along country roads and city streets. In short, we're going through the gate of the new year with much the same hope and many of the same fears but perhaps a little more resolution than last year. Or the year before.

Then what could make 1962 one of the best ever? A growing faith in what we hold to be true. A greater dedication to our own tasks ... and to helping others with theirs. Better plans. What we learn from our failures and how we wear our successes. A closer relationship with our neighbors and our Creator.

These are things of the spirit, but if we pursue them diligently, our headline will turn out to be more than a vague prediction. It will be a fact.

Shall we all try it and see?

* * * *

MEDITATION

Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians

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THIS MONTH

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BY HON. A. J. HOOKE,
MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT COUNTIES

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF ALBERTA BY RADIO ON PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS



I want to say a few words about the county system of local government as it has been operating in Alberta during the past eleven years. Most of what I have to say relates to rural counties, but in view of the publicity given to my recent proposal to "take a look" at urban counties, I certainly want to deal briefly with them too.

You may have noticed news reports of elections held Saturday, December 2, in the County of Paintearth No. 18; the County of St. Paul No. 19; and the County of Strathcona No. 20. These are the newest of our Alberta counties, the effective date of their establishment being January 1, 1962. From that date there will be twenty counties operating in the Province ... twenty large regions where former school divisions and municipal districts have merged or amalgamated to form single-government units or counties.

Paintearth County adjoins Stettler County on the east and here, as well as in Strathcona County on the south east boundary of the City of Edmonton, a number of county councillors were elected by acclamation, while the remaining members of each new county council won out over competing candidates. I want to congratulate these men and wish them every success in the broader field for which they are now responsible.

It may be of interest to note in passing that the organization of these three counties brings another 89 townships and an additional 20,000 people under county administration. Total area of Alberta's twenty counties is now almost 940 townships while the total population is about 142,000. By way of comparison, the remaining municipal districts are slightly less in area at 922 townships, but the number of people living there ... the 28 municipal districts and their co-terminous school divisions is considerably greater at as estimated 190,000.

Co-terminous boundaries are an important factor in the adoption of the county system. The term means simply that the boundaries of municipal districts are the same as their corresponding school divisions. Resulting from two years of negotiations (1953-1954) by the Co-Terminous Boundary Commission, our municipal districts and school divisions now come within this category. The setting up of a county, therefore, involves little if any boundary changes, but it does mean the end of the municipal district and the municipal council as such ... and also the end of the school division and its board of trustees as a separate entity. A county may be described as the combination of a municipality and a school division with the county council responsible for the administration of municipal and school affairs.

In respect to hospital administration the county is in exactly the same position as a municipal district. The county or municipal district council has the privilege either of providing for the election of the hospital board members they are entitled to, or appointing their representatives from either the members of the council or citizens who are interested in hospital matters.

In this connection it should be remembered that the boundaries of municipal hospital districts were not made co-terminous with the boundaries of school divisions or of municipal districts. As Dr. Hanson says in his book "Local Government in Alberta" hospital districts have not as yet been "tucked under the county quilt" but on the contrary retain their status and continue to operate as always.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Whenever the subject of counties comes up, someone usually asks, "But what about towns and villages located within a county? Are town and village councils abolished too? We wouldn't like that, I'm sure".

Nobody would like that. The truth is, of course, town councils and village councils are not abolished or absorbed by the county system. They continue exactly as before.

Another common question concerning counties is "Are separate schools changed by the adoption of the county system? The answer to this is a simple "No".

Perhaps one of the reasons behind the confusion relating to these points is that some town school districts and some village school districts have been absorbed by the county in which they are located, while others have not. This takes us back to 1936 when the large school divisions were being established in Alberta. Provision was made at that time for the inclusion of town and village school districts in the new large divisions and some of each type of district did in fact become a part of a division. Where this occurred the divisional school trustees administered the local schools and when the school division amalgamated with the municipal district to form a county, naturally these towns and villages came under the jurisdiction of the county council for school purposes.

There were of course town and village school districts which did not join with large school divisions and it must be emphasized that conversion to a county has no effect whatever on them now. Section 6 of The County Act reads "The provisions of this Act do not apply to a (a) town school district, (b) village school district, (c) consolidated school district, or (d) separate school district, that is not included in a school division".

However, the next subsection goes on to say that any of the school districts just mentioned "may be included in a county by agreement ..." which of course means for school purposes only. (To Page 4)

From the Minister's Notebook

MORE ABOUT COUNTIES

- 1936 - Enlarged school divisions first formed.
- 1942 - Enlarged municipal units formed.
- 1950 - The County Act passed.
- 1951 - County of Grande Prairie No. 1 and County of Vulcan No. 2 established January 1.
- 1953-55 - Co-terminous boundaries.

* * * *

Independent School Districts

With respect to schools that are independent of a school division or county, the situation is as follows: 9 Public and 9 Separate School Districts in 9 cities (not including Lloydminster); 16 Public School Districts in 16 towns; 2 Public School Districts in 2 New Towns; 27 Separate School Districts in 27 towns.

There are also 3 Public School Districts in 3 villages; 8 Separate School Districts in 8 villages; 3 Consolidated School Districts in 3 villages; 2 consolidated districts in towns and 3 rural consolidated districts.

In addition, there are 4 School Districts in National Parks; 2 in Metis colonies; 6 in National Defence establishments; 24 Public School Districts in rural areas and 34 Separate School Districts in rural areas.

* * * *

Benefits of the County System

Coordination of effort - greater value obtained for each dollar spent - definite saving in administration costs. For example cost of administration to total expenditure in counties is 3.79% while in municipal districts it was 3.92%. This is further illustrated by the fact that in comparing municipal district administration with county administration, the average sum payable to councillors for municipal supervision in counties was only \$520.97 per year while in municipal districts it was \$828.63. Similarly payments to councillors for municipal committee meetings was only \$222.72 in counties while municipal district council meeting payments averaged \$415.05. Under Miscellaneous Payments to councillors, county councillors received an average of \$196.87 while payments in the same category to municipal district councillors averaged \$397.85. The average number of days for which councillors were paid in municipal districts was 23.6 while in counties it was only 13.7. This appears to indicate that County councillors have tended to devote more time to over-all policy while delegating responsibility for supervision to employees.

BY NOEL DANT, DIRECTOR OF
TOWN & RURAL PLANNING FOR ALBERTA

**CONSERVING OUR
RESOURCES FOR TOMORROW**

A BRIEF REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN MONTREAL IN OCTOBER

The Resources for Tomorrow Conference held in Montreal October 23 to 28, 1961, was a unique and important event - unique in that the Federal Minister for Resources claimed the Conference to be the most important meeting of all the ten provincial governments with the Federal Government since Confederation. Alberta sent a delegation of 37 to the Conference led by the Honorable N. A. Willmore, Minister of Lands and Forests. Our delegates were made up equally of senior government authorities, university professors and experts from the Province at large. These delegates swelled the total number of participants at the Conference to 716 persons from across the country, to enjoin constructive discussions on the stated six basic renewable resources of water, agriculture, forestry, fishery, wild life and recreation, together with a more general and 'multiple resource' technique by means of Regional Development. Linked up with the basic resources were, inevitably, such derivating subjects as hydro-power, water and air pollution.

All six resources were treated separately under a variety of different workshop sessions, and they were all brought together at other sessions under the group workshop titles of management, research, jurisdiction, administration and information-education. Other resources, i.e., the non-renewable kinds and the people, as a human resource, crept into the discussions from time to time.

THREEFOLD OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Conference were threefold: (1) the identification of the major problems requiring attention in the renewable resource field; (2) the examination of what is currently being done to solve these problems, and (3) a clarification of the impediments to further progress and possible courses to achieve solutions to these problems.

Many of the background papers prepared in advance of the Conference are descriptive of the nature and extent of Canada's renewal natural resources, and analyze the technical and administrative problems involved in the development of this rich inheritance. However, those participating in the Conference did not avoid the more difficult problems of economic policy. Possession and protection of extensive and varied resources is in itself a desirable thing, and it is perhaps natural to view with some alarm the depletion of these resources, although their proper orderly utilization is basic to our whole economy. The question of the influx of foreign capital into our resource industries and the export of large amounts of resource products in raw or partly manufactured form, are further very relevant issues, but issues which must be discussed in terms of Canada's economic policies as a whole. Inevitably I suppose, the realization gradually began to be born in the minds of the many participants that the only way this could be coped with would be to adopt the multiple-resource or comprehensive approach of looking at all resources together at a regional level, in an endeavor to assess the optimum and most logical use for every section of land to be developed.

The export side of our resources has to be stressed since this is inevitably a very significant aspect of the question. Canada's relatively small population creates an inadequate domestic demand for these raw materials and the whole shape and substance of our economic development has been geared to meeting the needs of foreign buyers. As our domestic requirements gradually increase, and we are able to secure modifications in foreign tariffs, there will be opportunities in carrying on further stages of processing and manufacturing in Canada, and if production in Canada can meet the competition from other countries, more of our exports may be in a more highly processed form. For the present, however, our export trade is dominated by resource raw products. If minerals and bulk chemicals are included, resource based products make up nearly nine-tenths of Canada's exports, while renewable resource products alone constitute more than half of the sum total.

These considerations, along with the fact that there are world-wide surpluses of many of these products, confirm the view expressed at the Conference that traditional and somewhat negative attitudes to conservation of natural resources need careful re-examination of a more positive kind.

CONFERENCE ONLY A START

A conference, however, is only a starting point. The next step is the practical development of policies which take into account all the diverse interests involved and which are based on economic considerations that recognize the production and marketing problems of these Canadian industries based on Canada's natural resources.

The Steering Committee is now actively working out the best ways and means for continuing the good work completed at the Conference. Dozens of recommendations were thrown up by the various workshop groups and it will be the job of the Steering Committee to consider what kind of an organization can keep the matter alive and possibly interpret some of the recommendations into practical reality.

Members of Alberta's delegation who played 'leadership' roles at the Conference included: the Honorable N. A. Willmore, as Alberta's member to the Conference Steering Committee; R. Putnam and Professor Wonders, as Chairmen of Workshops; E. P. Shaver, W. H. Kaasa, F. W. Grindley and G. W. Smith as co-Chairmen of Workshops; Percy Davis, Q. C., Dr. V. Wood, Dr. McCalla and Noel Dant as lead-off speakers at Workshops; Harvey Hogge and R. N. Giffen as discussants; and Professor P. G. Smith and Professor W. A. Fuller as rapporteurs. The late Dr. N. Grace, then Director of the Alberta Research Council, also read a paper before a full plenary session.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT COUNTIES
(From Page 3)

QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION

We come now to the question of representation of towns and villages within a county on the school committee of the county council. Much thought has been given to this point by people interested in the county system. I might also add that much of the criticism directed against the county system is concentrated on this question.

When a county is established, the electors of not more than three towns and/or villages included in the county for school purposes proceed to elect men or women to represent them, and representatives so elected are then appointed by the county council to the school committee. In due course therefore, the three representatives take their places as full voting members of the school committee, holding office for two-year terms. If the county includes only two such towns and villages, then of course, there are only two representatives of this nature.

This provision works well in most instances, but where a county contains as many as seven or eight towns or villages, only three can be represented on the school committee of the county council at one time. It is therefore necessary to rotate representation: three towns or villages being represented this year and next; three more being given direct representation during the third and fourth year ... and so on.

As I said a moment ago, the provision works very well and actually may provide greater representation for residents of a town or a village than they had before the county was established. Look at it this way: If their town or village was a part of the large school division for school purposes, they did not have exclusive representation on the divisional board of trustees. As part of a county, however, these same residents do have the right to elect one of their number for a two-year term according to the system of rotation. Obviously in this sense the county system increases rather than reduced the exercise of their franchise.

But there is another point about this question of representation which must be given full value, and that is even if all towns and villages are not represented directly on the school committee every year, the county councillor whom they elect in their division of the county will certainly help solve school problems as they arise. He may even be a member of the school committee, but in any event he will retain a vital interest in school affairs.

At this point I would like to mention a booklet published by the Department of Municipal Affairs and bearing the approval of Hon. A. O. Aalborg, Minister of Education and myself. This booklet, en-

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after a struggle, treasure beneath their feet . . .



DRAYTON VALLEY, November, 1954. Transformation following the discovery of the great Pembina oilfield made less than two years before, was already underway.

TOWN OF THE MONTH (From Page 1)

The power project began in 1911 when an English syndicate was organized to build a dam six miles upstream on the Saskatchewan. Due to the outbreak of the First World War the project failed.

In 1930 there were some thirty lumber camps, employing between 300 and 400 bush workers during the winter months, in the Drayton Valley district. Lumbering remained the chief industry there until 1945.

In 1930 also the Anglican Church established a mission in the hamlet. Local residents built a nurse's residence where a trained nurse looked after the health and medical needs of the community.

But great things were in store for Drayton Valley and the vast hinterlands surrounding it. In February, 1953, Mobil Oil of Canada struck oil. For the first time the 75 settlers of the community, people who for many years had been struggling for their existence, learned of the treasure beneath their feet. By the end of 1953 more than 3000 workers had turned the sleepy hamlet into a teeming, roaring community. One well was drilled, then others by the hundreds and finally thousands . . . until the Pembina Field became recognized as one of the largest and richest producing oilfields in North America.

With vast quantities of oil being recovered, all types of service and supply companies set up their base of operations in or near Drayton Valley. Late in 1953, James B. Gee and Paul Bruer of the Town and Rural Planning Office of the Department prepared a report on the settlement for Cabinet and as a result the Drayton Valley Townsite Act was passed at the 1954 Session of the Legislature. This special Act enabled the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Hon. C.E. Gerhart) to enter into agreement with owners regarding the sale of property to third persons. A new subdivision plan was prepared and Mr. Gee was installed as Development Officer. Later that same year (1954) Murray Heaton, who had retired not long before as Chief Municipal Inspector, was appointed Official Administrator.

New officials were appointed in 1955. W.D. Isbister, now Assistant Chief Municipal Inspector, took over from Mr. Heaton and H.T. Deby, now Secretary of the local Planning Advisory Commission, assumed Mr. Gee's duties as Development Officer.

The booming hamlet of Drayton Valley became a village on December 30, 1955, but that wasn't nearly enough. At the 1956 session, viewing the probability of similar development in other Alberta centres, the Legislature passed The New Towns Act designed to cope with the situation. Under the provisions of the Act proper development of new urban areas was and is facilitated and the confusion and disorder which might be experienced otherwise is minimized. The Act also provides for the raising of money to finance sewer and water installations as well as for road building and other essential services. Used to guide the early years of several Alberta centres, the legislation has proven most beneficial where growth and development takes place at a greatly accelerated rate.

Only six months a village, Drayton became the New Town of Drayton Valley on June 1, 1956, and until March of 1957 was governed by a board of administration appointed by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Hon. A.J. Hooke. The board in fact consisted of W.D. Isbister as chairman, assisted by an advisory committee of local business men. This continued until the following March when as already noted

. . . and an attractive, well-designed town



DRAYTON VALLEY in August, 1961, looking west. Canadian Amateur Boxing Championships were held here last year. Town is 87 miles southwest of Edmonton. (Pembina News Advertiser Photos)

Drayton Valley was on its own with the election of a mayor and six councillors. At that time its population was about 3300, a figure increasing to an estimated 4000 by 1961.

Drayton Valley today is an attractive, well-designed town. With drilling activity nearly at an end and the oil field stabilized as a rich producer, a period of consolidation is to be expected. However, because of its favorable location it is anticipated that Drayton Valley will be recognized as the crossroads of middle-western Alberta; an expanding community dedicated to industry and recreation; serving the oilfields, the agricultural lands, the game and fishing grounds of the region.

SECRETARY'S CALENDAR



Municipal District Act

5th-Within 5 days after the end of each month the secretary-treasurer shall prepare a statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter copy in minutes. Sec. 61(1)(v).

Jan. 27 - Appoint returning officers and deputies by this date. Sec. 98(1).

Feb. 1 - Auditor's Financial Statement prepared. Sec. 68(1).

Feb. 6 - Meeting and nomination notices must be mailed to each proprietary elector and published on or before this date. Sec. 97 and 101.

Feb. 9 - Meeting and nomination notices must be posted on or before this date. Sec. 97 and 101.

Feb. 10 - Appoint enumerator on or before this date. Sec. 110(1).

Feb. 10 - Mail auditor's statement. Sec. 68(6).

Feb. 17 - Nomination and annual meeting held. Sec. 96(1)(3) (6) and 102.

Feb. 17 - Nominations received from 3 to 4 p.m. Sec. 103.

Feb. 19 - Withdrawal of candidate within 48 hours after close of nominations. Sec. 108.

Feb. 20 - After expiry of 48 hours from the close of nominations, enumerator shall prepare a list of qualified persons not on list of electors. Sec. 113 and 114.

Feb. 28 - Auditor shall send notice of arrears to ratepayers. Sec. 67(5).

March 10 - Secretary-treasurer shall complete list of electors and certify on 2nd Saturday in March. Sec. 116 to 119.

Town and Village Act

Secretary-treasurer shall prepare statement of monies received and their disposition, submit to council at next meeting and enter in minutes. Sec. 67(r).

Feb. 1 - Auditor shall prepare statements. Sec. 76(1).

Feb. 19 - Secretary-treasurer shall post notices of annual meeting. Sec. 125(2).

Feb. 19 - Secretary-treasurer shall publish synopsis of auditor's report. Sec. 76(5).

Feb. 26 - Annual meeting of electors. Sec. 125(1). Submission of reports. Sec. 126(1).

Feb. 28 - Auditor to send notice of arrears to ratepayers. Sec. 74(5).

Assessment Act 1960

Feb. 15 - Prepare assessment roll on or before this date. Sec. 26.

March 1 - Mail assessment slips on or before this date. Sec. 28.

Appoint a Court of Revision. Sec. 32, 35 and 43.

Advise complainants re Court of Revision date. Sec. 38.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS REVIEWED
(From Page 1)

and Heisler) on January 1, 1961. This was not repeated for 1962 as only two applications for the formation of new villages were received. Three villages, however, applied for town status and on January 1, 1962, the Towns of Beverly and Forest Lawn become parts of Edmonton and Calgary respectively.

Of special interest also was the change in status for the Village of Whitecourt which on August 15, 1961, became the New Town of Whitecourt, bringing to four the number of new towns in Alberta, each administered by a board of administrators.

In rural formations, three new counties were organized as from January 1, 1962, thus bringing the total to twenty.

The organization and the holding of regional meetings of secretary-treasurers and councillors of towns and villages, instituted last year at Crossfield, was continued in 1961 when four such meetings were held at Taber, Hanna, Crossfield and Leduc. Those attending became better acquainted with their neighbors and the discussion of mutual problems was freely entered into leaving the impression that such meetings are highly beneficial and serve a very useful purpose. Arrangements were made to hold similar meetings in 1962.

We are confident that the same spirit of cooperation between the Department and the councils and secretary-treasurers so evident in 1961 will continue throughout the coming year.

B. Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector

ACCOUNTS BRANCH

The move of the Department of Municipal Affairs to its own building was one of the highlights of 1961. For the first time in many years each branch has sufficient room in which to carry out its functions. The Accounts Branch (Personnel Office, Equipment Licensing, Accounts section, Cashier and General Office) are together in the same office which leads to better employee relations and better administration.



Work on the conversion to the new computer of various records and procedures has been carried out during the year. It is anticipated that the assessment, taxation and lease rolls for improvement districts and Special Areas will be fully converted by June 15, 1962. This will result in many changes of procedure and classes will be conducted to acquaint all members of the staff with these changes.

The year 1962 should be one of the best because of the improved office accommodation and facilities and the final conversion to the computer.

D.R. Watson, Secretary-Accountant

FIELD SERVICE BRANCH

As in previous years, this Branch is engaged in the work of general assessments in improvement districts, in addition to the usual annual assessments in these areas.

General assessments were completed in I.D.'s 58, 121, 126 and 143 in 1961, with a start made on I.D. 139.

Courts of Revision on general assessments were held in I.D. 8 (Waterton National Park), I.D. 131 and in the Special Areas.

Twenty-three Farm Purchase Boards continued with approximately the same level of activity as in previous years. The Director of Field Service and the resident inspector serve in the aforementioned Boards as chairmen and appraiser respectively.



Advisory Committees in improvement districts were increased by two with the establishment of committees in I.D. 107 and I.D. 946. This brings the total number to ten. Sixteen public meetings of ratepayers were held in the respective I.D.'s attended by the Director of Field Service, the Secretary Accountant and the resident inspector.

Agricultural Service Boards remained at seven but one new one will be formed in 1962, with the number of improvement districts served totalling fourteen. The Director of Field Service and the resident inspector serve as members of these Boards, with the Assistant Director being an alternate member.

The Five Year Program of the Government with respect to recreational facilities grants and municipal parks grants in improvement

districts is being implemented by members of the Branch. In addition, the Branch carries on its usual other business of annual assessments, hamlet services, industrial assessments, appraisals and valuations for the Public Trustee and for the Tax Recovery Branch.

Members of the Field staff serve on Health Unit Boards, District Planning Commissions, Interim Development Boards, and it would appear that the Branch may be more concerned with planning and development in improvement districts as time goes on.

The staff has been fully occupied in the past year, and all indications point to an equally busy 1962.

A.R. Isbister, Director

TAX RECOVERY BRANCH

During the past year collections and sales generally have been favorable and there has been a steady demand for Tax Recovery land throughout the Province, both farm property and urban lots.

In municipalities and improvement districts there have been approximately 745 private sales which brought in a total purchase price of \$456,500 and also resulted in that many parcels being added to assessment rolls. This is an increase of 245 sales and an increase in the sale revenue of \$70,000.

There have been 190 sales processed under The Farm Purchase Credit Act in improvement districts and the Special Areas, the total of the sales being \$1,709,205. Loans under the Act now amount to \$806,224.10.



Special Areas suffered drought and hail in most districts and a serious grasshopper infestation. Income for the first eleven months is as follows: Grazing Leases and Permits - \$398,432.15; Cultivation Leases and Permits - \$126,568.23; Community Pastures - \$60,258.90.

There were 45 Rights of Entry for well sites granted and 31 Pipeline Agreements. Revenue from these sources for the same period was \$16,550.88.

No new Seed Grain Advances were made in 1961 but better than average recovery of advances made in previous years reflects the heavy crop harvested in the northern parts of the Province.

It is anticipated that the current year will be as favorable as the past providing business trends remain approximately the same and the farmers harvest a reasonably good crop.

K.C. Switzer, Director

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING

The Town and Rural Planning Branch, like the rest of the Department has been happy and grateful for the much needed extra office space made possible by the move of the Department to its new premises. As the design of the office is inevitably related to the functions it has



to perform, we are now able seriously to consider the reorganization of our staff in the light of this change. This reorganization will be put into effect after Christmas, and will surely help towards better efficiency all round.

Our routine work continues to grow phenomenally. At this time of working the Provincial Planning Advisory Board has issued over 590 Board orders in an 8 month period as against 300 for the same period last year. This one statistic is typical of the increase of work being handled by all other divisions of the office.

In addition General Plans for the following have been started: Drayton Valley, Whitecourt, Barrhead, Drumheller with further requests for same from Athabasca and Wainwright when staff will permit.

The Town and Rural Planning Act has at last been completely rewritten from A to Z with many new provisions and its adoption into law will be sought at the 1962 session of the Legislative Assembly.

This last year has also seen the drafting of a standard Interim Development Order and By-law (combined into one document) suitably flexible enough for its adoption by any city, town or village, municipal district or county requesting same. This was a huge task in itself and a great step forward and we hope in the passage of time that this standard document will replace all earlier orders and by-laws making for a uniform administration of Interim Development throughout the Province.

Noel Dant, Director

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

In 1961, the general assessment was completed and entered on the roll. Completed also was a re-appraisal of all grazing leases on a quarter-section basis. The new grazing appraisal will be used in 1962. A full-time assessor was appointed to the staff this year. (To Page 8)

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT COUNTIES
(From Page 4)

titled "After Ten Years", deals with the operation and experience of Alberta counties, two of which (Grande Prairie and Vulcan) were established on January 1, 1951. Among other things it contains a record of events leading up to and some of the reasons for the passing of The County Act in 1950, and answers sixteen specific questions often asked about the county system. A copy of this booklet is yours for the asking.

URBAN COUNTIES

So far, ladies and gentlemen, I have been dealing chiefly with rural counties and some of the rather technical problems involved in the adoption of the county system by a rural district. I want to turn now to urban counties and in the few moments remaining make a few observations about them.

As I have already said, the question of applying the county principle to urban municipalities has been receiving a great deal of publicity since I mentioned the idea to the convention of the Union of Alberta Municipalities last October 25. On that occasion I suggested it might be time for urban administrators ... men and women on the councils and the school boards of our cities and towns ... to "take a look" at the county system with a view to deciding whether or not it might be good for urban as it is for rural areas. I did not intend to urge or even advocate the immediate adoption of the county system by any Alberta city or town ... but I did suggest that urban municipalities should consider what the system might do for them. I said I couldn't see any great problem in the way of a city or a town adopting the system, and added that legislation enabling them to do so would be prepared for the coming session of the Legislature.

Following my proposal before the Union of Alberta Municipalities, my colleague, Hon. A.O. Aalborg, outlined to the delegates attending the Alberta School Trustees' Association how the county system might apply to urban municipalities. At that time Mr. Aalborg stated: "Experience with the county system of local government in rural areas justifies the conclusion that this system would have distinct advantages if adopted in the larger urban centres of the Province". He went on to say that experience with rural counties also justified the conclusion that "it is simpler and easier to introduce the county system in a city such as Edmonton than in almost any rural area of the Province".

IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT

I find myself in complete agreement with these statements. I believe the same advantages inherent in the Alberta county system for rural districts hold true for urban areas. For example, I believe those who levy local taxes should be the same people as those who decide how local revenues should be spent. I believe it is easier to place responsibility for the level of a mill rate where the same authority is in charge of all local spending. I believe ratepayers in urban municipalities would find as they have in rural municipalities where the county system is operating successfully, that there would be less conflict of interest, less duplication and overlapping, improved efficiency, more co-ordination and greater opportunity for economical administration, I firmly believe the county system which has been proven in this Province over the past eleven years, means simplified, more effective local administration ... for administrators and ratepayers alike ... certainly in our rural districts, and in the cities and towns of Alberta as well.

Speaking to the recent convention of the Association of Municipal Districts and Counties, of which he is President, J.M. McKay urged Reeves and councillors of the twenty-eight remaining municipal districts to meet the boards of their respective school divisions with a view to combining their operation under the county system.

I have no hesitation in commending Mr. McKay as one who knows the municipal scene in this Province, and I too urge rural councils and boards of trustees to give their most serious consideration to the implementation of the county system.

I make the same statement to boards of aldermen and school boards in our cities ... and to school trustees and town councils in the towns of Alberta. I urge these people ... not to adopt the county system ... but to give it their most serious, fair-minded consideration.

If they will do so, I am sure it will not be long before there are a number of urban counties throughout the length and breadth of Alberta.

Alberta has a population density of about 5 persons per square mile. This compares with Ontario's 17 persons per square mile.

MEET THE DEPARTMENT

As Assistant Industrial Assessor with the Field Service Branch Peter Klompas inspects and evaluates oilfield and industrial installations and equipment for assessment purposes throughout Alberta's improvement districts. He also acts as revising officer at courts of revision after general assessments in I.D.'s and in addition makes market value appraisals for the Public Trustee. His work takes him into every improvement district having need for his practiced eye.



PETER KLOMPAS

Mr. Klompas was born at Andrew on June 12, 1927. After high school at Andrew and Lamont he learned welding and followed the trade with the steel fabricating and oil industry. For four years he was employed by a uranium mining company in the Arctic, working in all phases of machinery maintenance and installation.

Returning to Edmonton, Mr. Klompas put in three years as assistant assessor with the then Municipal District of Strathcona prior to joining the Department. That brings us to April 1, 1953, when he started as a farmland assessor moving on within a short time to become a supervisor. He has held his present position for two years next April 1.

Mr. Klompas is a member of The Appraisal Institute of Canada. Married to the former Marilyn Morgan, their two boys are Randy, 5, and Scotty, two. Peter is an accomplished mechanic and an avid gardener. He is very proud of his photography, especially that of the midnight sun and arctic scenery taken during his stint in the north.

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Glenn M. Gorrell has been an assessor with the Field Service Branch of the Department for five years. Born at Pilot Mound, Manitoba, on November 28, 1930, he attended elementary school there and graduated from the United College in Winnipeg. He received his B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba, a fact which may explain his regard for the Blue Bombers.



GLENN GORRELL

Following his graduation in 1951 he moved to Edmonton and for six years was employed by the International Harvester company in this city. Joining the Branch in May of 1957, the following year he was put in charge of an assessment crew making general assessments in various I.D.'s throughout the Province.

Most of 1961, Mr. Gorrell was on loan to the Assessment Commissioner's Office with the Research Division, but was recalled recently to the Field Service Branch to assist with the work of industrial assessments in improvement districts.

Mr. Gorrell has a family of two girls and two boys: Lynn, aged 7; Miles, a year younger; Blaine, 4 and Leigh who is two.

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MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS REVIEWED
(From Page 6)

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD (More)

Road construction covered 269 miles of high grade and 134 miles of gravel during the year. There are 40 pieces of heavy road construction and maintenance equipment together with service trucks and bunk bouses owned by the Special Areas Board. The crushing and hauling of gravel is done under contract but all the equipment is serviced and overhauled at our Youngstown Shop in the winter months. All snow plowing is provided by local snow plow clubs to which the Special Areas Board pays a grant.



In 1961, the Special Areas was very dry with no reserve of moisture so the crop and grass growth was light. With no spring runoff, stock watering has become a problem for many of our lease holders. After several dry years in the Special Areas, winter feed for livestock has become a serious problem but with the freight assistance on shipments of feed provided by governments, most of our ranchers and farmers have obtained sufficient feed from other parts of the Province at least to maintain their basic breeding herd. We had approximately 6,000 head of cattle in our four community pastures and should be able to accommodate an equal amount in 1962. Due to the shortage of water, there was no irrigation of plots in the Cessford area. The ranchers along the Berry Creek did a limited amount of irrigation from the Carolside Dam which provided considerable feed in those areas.

The Big Country Health Unit was established in 1961, with headquarters in Hanna and sub-offices in Oyen and Consort. This will provide a needed service to our ratepayers. An Agriculture Service Board was also established this year and it is expected this will be in operation early in 1962.

Two Farm Purchase Boards operate in the Special Areas. During 1961, 17 meetings were held to consider 27 applications involving transactions valued at \$290,630.

C.W. Edwards, Chairman

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ASSESSMENT COMMISSION

In 1961 considerable time and effort was again devoted to expand the coverage provided by the 1959 Assessment Manual. With reassessments under way in our major cities we have attempted to meet the demand for new assessment rate schedules designed to cover the more elaborate city homes.



Personnel from this Office has been kept extremely busy in providing field assistance and answering a large volume of correspondence. Inspectors of Assessments carried out inspections and submitted reports in respect of some 60 urban municipalities wherein a reassessment took place during 1960-1961 in accordance with the 1959 Assessment Manual. Legislation passed at the 1961 session of the Legislature created an extra heavy work load and this, combined with the many necessary meetings and conventions, made 1961 an interesting and extremely busy year.

Looking forward to 1962 we expect a yet greater expansion of the Assessment Manual with a possible section dealing specifically with the assessment of industries and machinery. It is expected that Section four of The Assessment Manual (the Unit Cost Section) will be reorganized and reprinted due to the huge volume of material that has been released since the original printing. We can thus look forward to another busy year and it is with confidence in the future that we wish one and all a happy and prosperous new year.

J.B. Laidlaw, Assessment Commissioner

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ASSESSMENT EQUALIZATION BOARD

As a result of legislation enacted in 1960 and proclaimed in 1961, by way of amendments to The School Act and The Hospitals Act, the Assessment Equalization Board was required not only to establish an equalized assessment in respect to each municipality but also in each case to apportion the equalized assessment so established amongst the several school districts or divisions and hospital districts to which the municipality concerned might be required to contribute. This requirement meant a more detailed report from municipal secretaries covering assessment figures as well as a decided increase in the work of this Branch.



Progress in the Board's program of sales analysis and leading to the establishment of a sales assessment ratio in respect to each mun-

icipality did not develop to the extent we had anticipated. This was due to the insufficient number of qualified personnel available to the Board in accomplishing the undertaking. We anticipate that this deficiency will be overcome to some extent in 1962 which will, we hope, permit incorporation of this factor in our equalization procedures in the not too distant future.

J.H. Todrick, Secretary-Member

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ASSESSMENT BRANCH

You have all heard of the roaring 20's. If 1961 is any criterion the 1960's may roar also, at least for the Assessment Branch.

Additional assessment service has been extended to several more towns and villages in the Province as well as two more cities. The work load of the Branch has again increased with the passing of The Municipal and Provincial Properties Valuation Act.



A recent reorganization of the Assessment Branch has included provision for the recruitment and establishment of farm land assessment crews to commence limited operations in 1962. Specialization in industrial assessment and pipe line and electric power assessments was also provided for in the new scheme.

Departmental assessors have continued activities in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon during 1961. It has been intimated that assessment services will be requested for 1962 in the municipality of Inuvik and if this is officially sanctioned, it will mean that the Branch services extend from the 49th Parallel to beyond the Arctic Circle.

P.H. Cordery, Assistant Supervisor

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ALBERTA ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD

As the old year passes into history it comes time for "the butcher and baker and candlestick maker" to take stock of his material goods and plan for the coming year. As civil servants our stock-in-trade is service to the public, and it is the time for us also to take a critical look at what we have accomplished in 1961. There is room for improvement in everything man creates and providing service to the public is no exception.



During the past year the duties of the Assessment Appeal Board have been made heavier by changes in the statutes governing assessments, but on the other hand have been made easier by more efficient and conscientious work on the part of those responsible for making assessments. While taxation was once considered merely a necessary nuisance, with government services and educational standards more or less geared to a level established by the tax revenue available, the picture has now changed, inasmuch as the public demands certain standards as being mandatory and governments, municipal and provincial, must find the necessary revenue.

Since most of our tax revenue is based on property assessments, the task of the assessor, the court of revision and the Appeal Board is becoming an increasingly important part of municipal administration.

To all those whom we have met in the past and to those we may look forward to meeting in 1962, the Board wishes a happy and prosperous new year.

E.F. Breach, Chairman

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PERSONNEL OFFICE

The Personnel Office of the Department has been extremely active during the past year. We have handled 55 appointments and 40 resignations, the total staff at this date being 371 employees.

During 1961 a great deal of time has been spent on procedures and the modification and completion of forms in order that conversion to the computer may be made on April 1, 1962. Upon complete conversion we can expect to receive our salary cheques on a bi-monthly basis.



It is anticipated that we will have another busy year due to the proposed staff increases throughout the Department and the possible acceptance of the proposed 4 1/2% increase for all civil servants.

W.H. Kinsman, Personnel Officer